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E. H. H. H. H.
1830



*I hereby certify that the impression of the following
work, "A lyttle Boke," &c., has been strictly limited to
twenty-five copies.*

J. E. Salmond

THE
BOOKE OF
MERRIE
Riddles.

Together with proper Questions,
and witty Prouerbs, to make
pleasant passeime.

No lesse vsfull then behoouefull, for
any young man or childe, to knowe
whether he be quicke witted or no.



LONDON
Printed for *Roger Jackson*, and are to bee
sold at his shop neere Fleet-street
Conduit. 1617.

The Booke of Riddles.

The 54. Riddle.

How many calves tailes will reach to the
skie.

Solution.

One if it be long enough.

The 55. Riddle.

Mary an Chast loue very well,
My Ladies name here I do tell,
Yet is her name neither Ch; if not Mary,
Tell me her name then, and doe not tarry.

Solution.

Her name is Maryan, for in the beginning it
is said, Mary an Chast, but this riddle is to
be put without the booke, and not be read,
or else it will come be perceived.

The 56. Riddle.

What is that as white as milke,
As soft as silke,
As blacke as a scale,
And hoppeth in the street like a strids sole.

Solution.

What is a pic, that hoppeth in the street,
For part of his scather is bee whife, and part
bee blacke.

The 57. Riddle.

What is that goeth about the wood, and can
not get in.

Solution

A lttle Boke

GEVINGE

A True and Brief Accounte

OF SOME

Reliques and Curiosities

ADDED OF LATE TO

Mr. HALLIWELL'S SHAKESPEARE COLLECTION.

LONDON:

PRINTED (BY J. E. ADLARD) FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

1856.



✱

PREFACE.

The following pages contain a list of relics and curiosities illustrative of Shakespeare, and Shakesperian literature, purchased chiefly during the last two years. The accounts here given are in most cases exceedingly brief, and penned with the hope of not giving undue prominence or importance to any of them, an error very common, and perhaps natural, to ardent collectors. So strongly, however, do I desire to guard against this, I would rather depreciate than increase the value of any, if there were the slightest probability of an opinion here expressed stamping a relic with authenticity on insufficient grounds. The genuineness of most of those now described is unquestionable; but I would especially mention my own disbelief in the peculiar attribution of what

the late Mr. Croker termed *Shakespeare's betrothal ring*. This ring, a very fine one, and an undoubted original of the period, was highly valued by that eminent writer. It came from Stratford-on-Avon, and has a singular coincidence in favour of its having been in some way connected with New Place, the device upon it and on the painted glass being nearly identical, and the initials also corresponding. It thus becomes a curiosity worthy of preservation, and of the sum paid for it. Like every other relic of the same description, there is no *proof* of the original ownership. The curiosity and interest of many of the other articles speak for themselves.

J. O. HALLIWELL.

October 16th, 1856.



A lttle Boke, &c.



1.

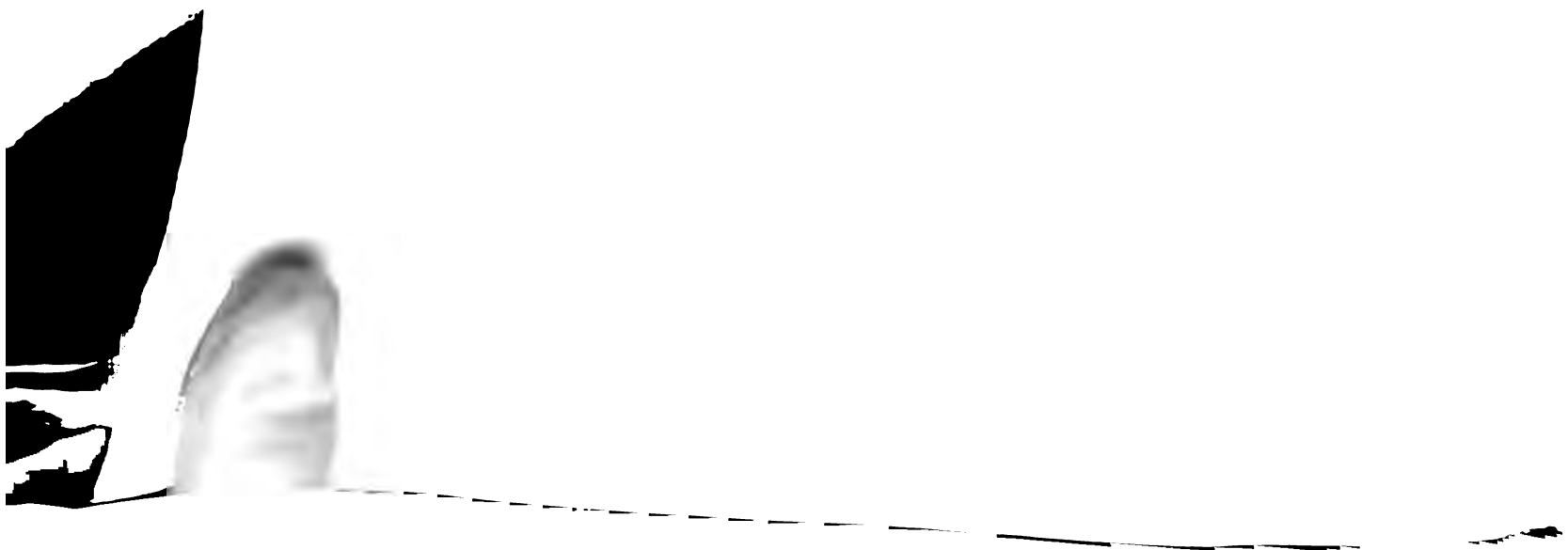
A manuscript on a large sheet of vellum, written by an English magician of Shakespeare's time, giving some curious and extraordinary incantations for fairies, the virgins of fairies, &c.

2.

An old token of the Crown Inn at Oxford, the tavern at which Shakespeare lodged in his way from Stratford-on-Avon to London. This tradition is authenticated by Antony Wood. It was there the elder Davenant lived.

3.

A pomander of the time of Queen Elizabeth. A very fine and curious specimen, in excellent preservation. A pomander was a composition of perfumes, wrought into the shape of a ball, and enclosed in a small receptacle, usually of



and described by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A., where the initials appear tied in a true lover's knot of three ties and one tassel. Mr. Fairholt tells the history of this piece of painted glass and its connexion with New Place so clearly, that no question has been raised respecting it.—In the *Life of Shakespeare*, an engraving of the ring found at Stratford-upon-Avon, in the possession of Mr. Wheeler, and supposed to have belonged to Shakespeare, is given. It has the letters W. S. tied by a true lover's knot of two ties, issuing from a heart, the tassels nearly meeting. In respect to the manufacture and engraving, it closely resembles the one in Mr. Croker's possession, except that the latter is of superior workmanship. As in the case of contracting parties the Christian names alone were used, it becomes probable that W. and A. were those of William Shakespeare and Ann Hathaway upon betrothment, which after cohabitation were changed to W. S. and upon marriage restored to S. a mode of marking the plate and linen of married W.A. persons not yet quite obsolete."

Mr. Croker thus alludes to it in a letter printed in the New York Evening Post, 29 August, 1854,—“I intend to seal this letter with my Shakspeare's betrothing ring, in Elizabethan phrase, ‘Gimmel ring.’ The evidence upon which its appropriation rests is now as clear as it is extraordinary. If you have not Fairholt's charming little half-crown book, illustrative of the localities of Shakespeare's life, I will send it you. If it has not delighted, it will delight you, and in it see the representation of the piece of painted glass from Shakspeare's residence at New Place. Then see the ring engraved in Halliwell's Life of Shakspeare, and finally

hear what can be said upon the heraldry of true lovers' knots, from the time of the 8th Harry to that of James the Scot. These make out my case. The ring itself came into my possession at Gloucester by the merest chance with another of Roman workmanship, which I then considered to be the most valuable of the two. Both were bought for something more or less than one sovereign, and now, by the gods, I would not take a hundred for what I then thought the least worthy. So much for being half an hour too soon for a railway train."

Mr. Croker told me he always kept memoranda of the sources of rings, and that the seller of the present one, without having any motive for misrepresentation, told him it came from Stratford-on-Avon. This circumstance, and the coincidences above alluded to, are, at least, curious; but the idea of its having been the poet's betrothal ring is altogether unproved, and seems little less than absurd. The similarity of design with that on the piece of glass, is, however, very remarkable.

5.

A token of the Boar's Head, near the May-pole in the Strand. This is merely curious as showing the sign was not a peculiar one.

6.—7.



Two ancient tokens of the Seven Stars. One side of the first of these, the most curious, is here engraved.

5

8.

A very early token of the White Hart, the name of an inn (though not the identical one) mentioned by Shakespeare.

9.

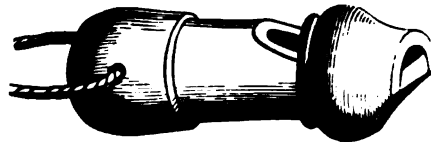
TOKEN OF ALCE WATES, of the seventeenth century. *Alce Wates at the Three Pigeons in the Ould Bayley.* This curious token is engraved in my edition of the Taming of the Shrew as illustrative of *Alce* being the old pronunciation of *Alice*.

10.

And old London token. FRANCIS NORES. A bunch of Grapes.—*Reverse.* IN WAPING, 1653. In the field, F. N. A room with the name of this sign is mentioned by Falstaff.

11.

A CARMAN'S WHISTLE. A woodcut of this specimen is here given.



12.

A LARGE PIECE OF SHAKESPEARE'S MULBERRY TREE, CUT FROM ONE OF THE BLOCKS PRESENTED TO GARRICK.

So many supposititious mulberry-tree relics are in existence, it is hazardous to vouch for the authenticity of any, but the present one can be traced almost beyond a doubt, having been cut in my presence from one of the blocks which had the certificate of Garrick's seal, and the history of which is known. Much has been said and written about this celebrated tree, since it was barbarously cut down by the Goth who owned Shakespeare's house and garden at Stratford-on-Avon. The act was perpetrated about 1745, in order to prevent strangers from coming into the garden to see the tree. There is strong reason for believing, from the concentric rings in the wood, that the tree was planted about the year 1609, Shakespeare having bought the place in 1597. After it was cut down, various relics were formed from the wood, but they were chiefly for the purposes of drinking. The most celebrated of these was that which Garrick held in his hand, at the Stratford Jubilee, in September, 1769, when he recited the beautiful song, written by himself, beginning thus :

Behold this fair Goblet, 'twas carved from the tree
Which, oh, my dear Shakespeare, was planted by thee;
As a relic I kiss it, and bow at thy shrine,
What comes from thy hand must be ever divine.
All shall yield to the Mulberry tree,
Bend to thee, sweet Mulberry,
Matchless was he who planted thee,
And thou, like him, immortal shall be.

This goblet was sold for no less a sum than £132, on 5th May, 1825, with other interesting articles, which had belonged

to David Garrick, being the property left by his widow, who died in 1822. It is thus mentioned in the catalogue:—"Lot 170—The original cup carved from Shakespeare's Mulberry tree, which was presented by the Mayor and Corporation at the time of the Jubilee at Stratford-on-Avon," &c. &c. This was followed in the catalogue by two lots, described thus:—Lot 171—Two well-authenticated blocks from the celebrated Mulberry of Shakespeare. Lot 172—Three ditto, ditto. By request, these two lots were put up together, and purchased by M. M. Zachary, Esq., and Mr. Balmanno, for thirty-one guineas; but the former gentleman having a very long purse, and the latter a very short one, the lion's share was, of course, allotted to the long, and a few fragments only to the short. Along with the *five* blocks, there was delivered a warrantee or certificate, of which the following is a *verbatim* copy:

"9 July, 1762, Rec'd of David Garrick, Esq., by the hands of Lieut. Eusebius Silvester, Two Guineas, in full for Four pieces of Mulberry Tree, which, with Two other pieces of the same Tree, I lately delivered to the said Mr. Silvester, for the use of the said Mr. Garrick. I do hereby WARRANT them to be part of the Mulberry Tree, commonly called SHAKESPEARE'S TREE, and said to be planted by him, and lately cutt down by the Rev'd Mr. Gastrells, late Sir Hugh Clopton's Garden at Stratford-upon-Avon. Witness, my hand, Geo. Willes.

"Witness hereto, Wm. Hunt, Attorney in Stratford.

"John Kayton, Mas'r of the White Lion Inn there, paid Carriage and Porterage 6s."

The paper was thus endorsed in another hand, evidently Mrs. Garrick's:—"Mr. Geo. Willes—P'd by my husband, 1768, for a mulberry tree." The certificate mentions six pieces, whilst five only were in the catalogue, and only that number sold and delivered. It was therefore many years a question what had become of the sixth block. It was, however, in the possession of the late Mr. Crofton Croker. At his death, a large portion of it was sent to America, but a considerable fragment was retained in England, and carefully distributed into about six shares. The block itself was accompanied by the following certificate:—

"A piece of Shakespeare's mulberry tree, presented by the Corporation of Stratford-upon-Avon, to David Garrick, 1762, and sealed by him with his seal, (a head of Shakespeare) which still remains on the block. On Mrs. Garrick's death in 1822, this relic came into the possession of George Frederick Beltz, Esq., Lancaster Herald, one of her executors, and in 1844 was presented to me, by his brother Samuel Beltz, Esq., of the treasury.

THOMAS CROFTON CROKER."

13.

A London token,—J. D. IN SHEPE YARD HIS HALFPENY. Reverse, WITHOUT TEMPLE BAR. In the field, a ship. This curious token, which illustrates the interchangeable pronunciation of *sheep* and *ship*, played upon by Shakespeare, is engraved in Akerman's Tradesmen's Tokens, 1849.

14.

FRAGMENT OF A DRINKING-GLASS FOUND IN THE CELLAR
OF THE BOAR'S HEAD IN EAST CHEAP.

This most interesting relic of Shakespeare's ever famous Boar's Head, the only one of the kind bearing any good claims to authenticity, is evidently a portion of a glass of Shakespeare's time. The outline exhibits its form when perfect. It belonged to the late Mr. Crofton Croker, and is accompanied by the following certificate, it having been found when the Boar's Head was pulled down to make way for the new London Bridge,—



"Fragment of an ancient drinking-glass found in a cellar of the Boar's Head tavern, Eastcheap, which had not been disturbed since 1666. Given by William Knight, esq., F.S.A., 1831.—T.C.C."

15.

A token of William Eye at the *Sheepe* in Rye, 1652, the figure of the vessel showing clearly that the sign was that of a *ship*. This interesting token, which so curiously illustrates the play upon the word in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, is engraved in my folio edition of Shakespeare, vol. ii. p. 42.

10

16.

An early London token of the Bear at the Bridge Foot, a tavern frequently mentioned by the early English dramatists, and stated, I know not on what good authority, to have been frequented by Shakespeare. ABRAHAM BROWNE, AT Y^r—a bear walking to the left. *Reverse*,—BRIDGE FOOT, SOUTHWARK. In the field,—HIS HALF PENY. The Bear at the Bridge Foot remained until the present century, but was removed in the alterations consequent on the erection of the new London Bridge.

17.

WILLIAM HORNE AT THE HORNES, SAINT GILES FIELDS—H.W.H. In the field,—two horns. A token issued about 1660.

18.

A very early token dated 1648—AT THE HALFE MOON. This illustrates the name of a room mentioned by Falstaff.

19, 20, 21.

Three early tokens of the sign of the Castle. THE CASTEL TAVERN, in the field, a castle. AT THE POSTORN GATE—w.m. Another is dated 1656, and was issued from the Castle in Wood Street. A third is of the Castle in Clement Danes. All three were inns, and the sign was a common one. Shakespeare mentions a provincial tavern of the same title.



11

22.

MICHAELL FITCHAT—in the field, two crossed daggers.
IN WINTON, 1667—HIS HALFPENNY.—M.J.F.

23.—25.

JOHN CLARKE AT THE MAN IN THE MOONE IN WAPING
HIS HALF PENNY, 1668. Two other early tokens of the same
sign.

26.—28.

AT THE BORES HEAD. In the field, a boar's head. B.B.M.
IN SOUTHWARKE. 1649. A very early token of this sign,
but not of Falstaff's inn.

THE BORS HEAD IN KING STREETE, WESTMINSTER. In
the field—a boar's head.

Another Boar's Head token, dated 1668.

29.

AN ORIGINAL TOKEN OF THE CELEBRATED MERMAID
TAVERN IN CHEAPSIDE, issued by Blundell in 1664.

It was at this famous tavern (the token of which is
exceedingly rare) that Sir W. Raleigh established his literary
club in 1603, a company that included the names of Shake-
speare, Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Cotton, Carew,
Martin, Donne, Selden, and others. Every one has read the
lines from Beaumont to "rare Ben" on this inn, but they
will ever bear repetition—

—— What things have we seen
 Done at the Mermaid ! heard words that have been
 So nimble, and so full of subtle flame,
 As if that every one from whom they came,
 Had mean'd to put his whole wit in a jest.

30.—31.

Two early tokens of other taverns of the same sign, but having no connexion with the one in Cheapside above mentioned.

32.

Mary Long in Russell Street in Covent Garden—Her Halfe Penny. M. L. This token is of the sign of *the Rose*.

33.

AN ORIGINAL TOKEN ISSUED IN WHEELER STREET,
 SPITALFIELDS, BEARING THE SIGN OF TARLTON, THE ACTOR.
 —AT THE TARLTON.

O honour far beyond a brazen shrine,
 To sit with Tarlton on an ale-post's sign !
Hall's Satires.

So, in a marginal note to Stowe's *Annales*, ed. 1615, p. 697,—“Tarelton so beloved that men use his picture for

their signes." Tarlton was an actor in the Famous Victories of Henry the Fifth, a play supposed to have furnished some hints for Shakespeare's Henry IV. The present token is one of the rarest and most intrinsically curious in the whole range of the London series. There does not appear to be any specimen of it in the Beaufoy cabinet. The following curious allusion to Tarlton's name as an inn-sign does not appear to have been hitherto noticed,—



Howbeit, if they did onelie this, they were the more to bee pardoned ; but they are not ashamed to step one degree higher, by hanging out these monumentes of their grosse ignorance, for signes at innes and ale-houses (the toleration whereof I have ever wondered at) putting no difference betweene the renowned Scepter of K. Henry the 8. and Tartletons pipe. If this bee not to prophane the sacred Majestie of Princes, and disgrace nobility, surely I cannot judge. But this I am sure of, that if any private man were so handled, he would holde it an indignity unsufferable.—*Lomatius on Painting, by Haydock, 1598.*

In 1844 I published an edition of Tarlton's Jests, with copious notices of this celebrated actor. The following additional memoranda may be worth preserving,—

Draw him but into the common-place of wine, he will weary the whole company with one quart and a morcell more, and so God be at your sport, M. Tarlton.—*Lodge's Wits Miserie, 1596, p. 80.*

Wit that shall make thy name to last,
 When Tarleton's Jests are rotten ;
 And George-a-Green and Mother Bunch
 Shall all be quite forgotten.

Wit and Drollery, 1682, p. 42.

The jest, "How Tarlton flowted a lady in the court," repr. p. 6, is also found in Copley's *Wits, Fits, and Fancies*, 1614, p. 101. The jest, "Tarlton's answere to a nobleman's question," p. 11, is in Copley, *ibid.* p. 34. The first part of the jest, "Tarlton's jest to an unthrifty courtier," is in Copley, *ibid.* p. 54, and the remainder also in Copley, p. 48. The jest, "How Tarlton saved his head from cutting off," p. 32, is in Copley, *ibid.* p. 171. The verses, "Whether a daw sit," &c., p. 34, are taken from Heywood's *Workes*, 1566. The jest, "Of Tarlton's pleasant answere to a gallant by the high-way side," p. 35, is in Copley, *ibid.* p. 46. "How Tarlton called a gentleman knave by craft," p. 36, is in Copley, p. 142. Another version of Tarlton's jest of a country-wench, p. 36, is in Copley, p. 153. The Sandwich jest, p. 36, is in Copley, pp. 162-3. The proverbial verses at p. 43 are in Ray's *Proverbs* and in Howell's *Lexicon Tetraglotton*, 1660, and they were probably current at a much earlier period. Tarlton's name is not given in any of the jests in Copley's collection, but the repetition of them in Tarlton's Jests seems to show that the latter work was partially compiled from ordinary sources of the time.

34.

THE BOOKE OF MERRIE RIDDLES, TOGETHER WITH
PROPER QUESTIONS AND WITTY PROVERBS, TO MAKE PLEASANT
PASTIME, no lesse usefull than behoovefull for any young
man or childe, to knowe whether he be quicke-witted or no.
*London, Printed for Roger Jackson, and are to bee sold at
his shop neere Fleet-street Conduit. 1617. Black-letter.*

This *unique* curiosity is of great literary interest as
being the earliest edition of the "Book of Merry Riddles"
mentioned by Slender in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*.
The most ancient copy hitherto known is that dated 1629
preserved in the library of the Earl of Ellesmere. One leaf
is wanting, and also the last leaf, which however contained a
very few lines.

This singular curiosity was only lately discovered in a
sale-catalogue in London, where its rarity was altogether
unknown. My commission for it was £20, intrusted to
Mr. Bumstead, the well-known bookseller.

The following extract from this remarkably curious volume
may interest the reader:—

The 7 Riddle.—What Kings, Queenes, and their servants
be they, that bee burnt once a yeere, and bee cut and torne as
small as flesh to the pot.

Solution.—Those bee the Kings and Queenes and varlets
among the cards, that be some burned, and some torne, and
some cut.

The 8 Riddle.—What is that, that hath his belly ful of
mans meat, and his mouth full of dirt.

Solution.—It is an Oven when it is full of bread, or pies, for that is mans meat, and the Ovens mouth is then closed with dirt.

The 9 Riddle.—What is that that hath a beard of flesh, a mouth of horne, and feet like a Griffon.

Solution.—That is a Cocke, for his beard is flesh, his bill horne, and his feet like a Griffon.

The 10 Riddle.—What is that, the more ye lay on, the faster it wasteth.

Solution.—That is a Whetstone, for the more yee whet the lesse is the whetstone.

The 11 Riddle.—Of what facultie be they, that everie night turne the skins of dead beasts.

Solution.—Those be the religious persons, for every night at Mattens, they turne the leaves of their Parchment bookes, that bee made of sheepe skinnnes, or calves skinnnes.

The 12 Riddle.—Two blacke,

Leapt over the lake,

With their mouths full of mans bones.

Solution.—That is a paire of shooes on a mans feete, when a man leapeth over a lake, for they bee blacke, and they are within full of mans flesh and bones.

The 13 Riddle.—Three prisoners such as it was

Were shut up in a prison of glasse,

The prison doore was made of bread

And yet they were for hunger dead.

Solution.—Those were three flies that were shut up in a glasse, and the mouth of it stopped with a peece of bread.

The 14 Riddle.—Little boy bunting
 Sate on the house easing,
 With a bow and a bolt,
 Slaieth the king and all his folke.

Solution.—That is death, which slaieth Kings, Princes,
 Dukes, Earles, Gentlemen, and every living creature.

The 15 Riddle.—Yonder side sea is there a bote,
 The kings daughter of England, there shee
 sate :
 And if ye tell me her name, no man it wot,
 What was the maids name that sate in the
 bote.

Solution.—Her name is Anne, for in the fourth line it
 saith, An if ye tell me her name : but this riddle is not to bee
 seene on the booke, but it is to bee put without the booke, or
 else it shall soone be understood.

The 16 Riddle.—M. and J. made great mone
 When C. upon C. was left alone.

Solution.—That is Marie and John made great mone
 When Christ on a Crosse was left alone.

For Marie beginneth with M, John beginneth with J,
 Christ beginneth with C, and Crosse beginneth with C. Also
 this riddle may be put another way, and that is this. A
 thousand and one made great mone, when a hundred on a
 hundred was left alone. For M is for a thousand, and J is
 for one, and C for a hundred, and then is M for Mary, J for
 John, C for Christ, and then is the riddle very diffuse.

The 17 Riddle.—Who bare the best burthen that ever
 was borne, at any time since, or any time beforne.

Solution.—It was the Asse that bare both our Lady and her sonne out of Egypt.

The 18 Riddle.—What is the most profitable beast, and that men eat least on.

Solution.—It is a Bee, for it maketh both hony and wax, and costeth his master nothing the keeping.

The 19 Riddle.—I am without it, and yet I have it,
Tell me what it is, I pray God save it.

Solution.—It is my heart, for I am without it, insomuch that it is within mee, for yee may not understand by the riddle that I lacke it.

The 20 Riddle.—What is that is like a mede,
And is not past a handfull brede,
And hath a voyce like a man,
You will tell me this, but I wot not whan.

Solution.—It is a little Poppingay, for it is greene like a mede, and is not past a handfull brede, and it speaketh like a man.

The 21 Riddle.—L and V and C and I
So height my Lady at the font stone.

Solution.—Her name is Lucy, for in the first line is L V C I which is Lucy; but this riddle must bee put and read thus, fifty and five, a hundred and one: then is the riddle very proper, for L standeth for fifty, and V for five, C for a hundred, and I for one.

